

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A terminal fitting, comprising a base plate (24), at least one fastening piece-(26) extending from a side edge of the base-(24) and configured to be crimped at least partly around an outer circumferential surface-(32) of a seal-(30) fit on a wire-(10) for fastening the seal-(30) together with the wire-(10), wherein:

the fastening piece-(26) has a contact surface-(29) for contacting the seal-(30) and at least one seal protecting portion-(27) disposed an intermediate position on the fastening piece-(26) and at a corner of the contact surface-(29), the seal protecting portion-(27) being aligned at an-obtuse acute angle (α) to the contact surface-(29) of the fastening piece-(26).

2. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein the seal protecting portion-(27) is formed over substantially an entire side edge adjacent the contact surface-(29) of the fastening piece-(26).

3. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein the contact surface-(29) of the fastening piece-(26) is crimped to deform the seal-(30) and to fasten the seal-(30) together with the wire-(10), the seal protecting portion-(27) being disposed and aligned at a selected-obtuse acute angle (α) to the contact surface-(29) for avoiding contact with the seal-(30).

4. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein at least two of the fastening pieces-(26) are provided and are displaced along a longitudinal direction-(LD) of the terminal fitting-(20).

5. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein a rear edge of the bottom base plate-(24) is a portion previously coupled to and then separated

from a carrier-(50), wherein the seal protecting portion-(27) being spaced from the rear edge.

6. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein the fastening piece-(26) is at a lateral end of the base plate-(24).

7. (currently amended) A terminal fitting, comprising: a base-(24) having opposite side edges extending parallel to a longitudinal direction-(LD), fastening pieces-(26) extending respectively from the side edges of the base-(24) and configured to be crimped at least partly around an outer circumferential surface-(32) of a seal-(30) fit on a wire-(10) and positioned on the base-(24), each of the fastening pieces-(26) having a contact surface-(29) extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction-(LD) for contacting the seal-(30), and seal protecting surfaces-(27) disposed on the fastening pieces-(26) along edges of the contact surfaces-(29), the seal protecting surfaces-(27) being aligned at an obtuse acute angle (α) to the contact surface-(29) of the fastening piece-(26) for avoiding biting contact with the seal-(30).

8. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 7, wherein the seal protecting portion-(27) is formed over substantially entire side edges adjacent the contact surface-(29) of each of the fastening pieces-(26).

9. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 7, wherein the seal protecting surfaces-(27) extend linearly at the obtuse acute angle (α) to the contact surface-(29) of the fastening piece-(26).

10. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 7, wherein the seal protecting surfaces-(27) are curved and have tangents aligned at the obtuse acute angle (α) to the contact surface-(29) of the fastening piece-(26).

11. A terminated wire, comprising:

a wire-(10) having a longitudinal direction-(LD) and an end, a conductive core-(11) extending along the longitudinal direction-(LD) from the end and an insulation coating-(12) surrounding at least a portion of the core-(11);

a substantially tubular seal-(30) mounted over the insulation coating-(12) in proximity to the end of the wire-(10), the seal-(30) having an outer circumferential surface-(32); and

a terminal fitting-(20) having base-(24) extending along the longitudinal direction-(LD) and engaging a portion of the outer circumferential surface-(32) of the seal-(30), the base-(24) having opposite side edges, fastening pieces-(26) extending respectively from the side edges of the base-(24) and crimped at least partly around the outer circumferential surface-(32) of the seal-(30), each of the fastening pieces-(26) having a contact surface-(29) extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction-(LD) and contacting the outer circumferential surface-(32) of the seal-(30), and seal protecting surfaces-(27) disposed on the fastening pieces-(26) along edges of the contact surfaces-(29), the seal protecting surfaces-(27) being aligned at an-obtuse acute angle (α) to the contact surface-(29) of the fastening piece-(26) for avoiding biting contact with the seal-(30).

12. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 11, wherein the seal protecting surfaces-(27) extend linearly at the-obtuse acute angle (α) to the contact surface-(29) of the fastening piece-(26).

13. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 11, wherein the seal protecting surfaces-(27) are curved and have tangents aligned at the ~~obtuse~~ acute angle (α) to the contact surface-(29) of the fastening piece-(26).

14. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 11, wherein the seal protecting portion-(27) is formed over substantially entire side edges adjacent the contact surface-(29) of each of the fastening pieces-(26).